

during this period it subsists almost exclusively on these bugs. The stomach contents of one of these birds yielded thirty undamaged bugs and the remains of many others¹. The bugs are usually collected on the branches and twigs of the *Bombax*.

In addition to vegetable food the bugs may frequently be seen feeding on the carcase of one of their own fellows but this does not appear to be deliberate cannibalism, as they do not appear to kill one another but just feed on a dead comrade that they may find². I have not observed these bugs feeding on any plant tissue other than seeds.

An excellent account by Maxwell-Lefroy of the life-history of the Red Cotton Bug appears in Volume 2 of *The Memoirs of the Department of Agriculture of India*.

DOMINION MUSEUM,
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND,
January 16, 1961.

CHARLES McCANN

22. ABDOMINAL MARKINGS ON A THOMASID SPIDER

(With a photograph)

Mr. Kalyan Gupta of Shillong has sent us the photograph of a spider whose abdominal markings bear a remarkable resemblance to a human face.

The photograph was sent to Dr. B. K. Tikader of the Zoological Survey of India who identified the species as the Thomasid or Crab Spider, *Psitius sreepanchamii* recently described by him from Shillong in the *Journal of the Linnean Society*, 1962, **44** : 572. He states that 'the abdomen of the adult female looks like this photograph before oviposition'. Apparently the markings are evident only when the abdomen is distended. One is reminded in this context of the skull-like markings on the thorax of the Death's Head Hawk Moth.

¹ According to D'Abreu (1919, *Proc. III Ent. Meeting, Pusa*, p. 867) the Red-vented Bulbul (*Molpastes haemorrhous*) is another bird recorded feeding on this bug.—EDS.

² According to Fletcher (1919, *Proc. III Ent. Meeting, Pusa*, p. 262) in the absence of their usual food the bugs turn cannibalistic and feed on their own species.—EDS.



Spider with 'Human Face'

Acherontia styx Westwood, though it is difficult to imagine how these markings benefit these animals.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
91, WALKESHWAR ROAD,
BOMBAY 6,
August 22, 1962.

J. C. DANIEL
Curator

23. STUDIES ON SOME SPIDERS OF THE GENUS *OECOBIOUS* (FAMILY OECOBIIDAE) FROM INDIA

(With two text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

Spiders of the family Oecobiidae are little known from the Oriental Region. They occur in crevices and corners in buildings and under stones. They like close proximity to man, so these spiders have been carried by man through baggage to other parts of the world from their original locality. One known and a new species of *Oecobius* are described here.

The type specimens will in due course be deposited in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.